

REMARKS

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. The references on the PTO/SB/08A (04-03) were cited in the corresponding German and European proceedings. A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment for the filing of the IDS under 37 CFR §1.97(c).

Most of the references are cumulative and not extremely relevant. However, DE 41 24 869 appears pertinent to claim 8 of the present application as filed.

Accordingly, this reference will be discussed in the remarks which follow. English language legends have been provided on the drawing of DE '869 to assist understanding.

The specification has been amended for clarity, and to provide specific antecedent basis for language in newly submitted claim 17.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, and further to more clearly distinguish from the art of record. The subject matter of claim 1 is essentially represented in Figure 2.

New claim 17 essentially represents a combination of claims 1, 8, 11, and 5. The subject matter of claim 17 is essentially represented in Figure 4.

New claim 21 essentially represents a combination of claims 1 and 12. The subject matter of claim 21 is essentially represented in Figure 5.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been addressed by the amendment.

Claims 1-4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by FR 2730714. To the extent that this rejection would be applied to claims as presently amended, it is traversed for the reasons following.

FR '714 discloses a cable which drives a piston in a cylinder, the piston being fixed to a piston rod which is axially movable in the cylinder and projects from one end thereof. However there is no extension which is axially movable in the cylinder and projects from the other end, wherein the actuating element (cable) is connected to the extension.

New independent claims 17 and 21 each recite a hollow piston rod, which is not disclosed or suggested by FR '714.

In DE 41 24 869, the push/pull element 12 constitutes a force transmitting element which passes through a cylinder 19 which constitutes a hollow piston rod, the element 12 being connected to a piston 20 which constitutes a connection having one end fixed to the housing of gas pressure spring 5, which constitutes a cylinder.

DE '869 does not disclose a radial connecting element fixed to the hollow piston rod 19, or a stop fixed to the connection 20 for limiting movement of the piston rod relative to the cylinder. Claim 17 is therefore felt to distinguish patentably over this reference.

DE '869 does not disclose a capsule element fixed concentrically in piston rod 19, or the force transmitting element 12 passing through the bottom of the cylinder 5 for fastening to an element to be moved. Claim 21 is therefore felt to distinguish patentably over this reference.

The claims as amended and newly submitted being patentable over the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are solicited. If any objections remain, a call to the undersigned is requested.

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our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

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